



*Health Care Quality and Cost Council
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
One Ashburton Place, Room 1109
Boston, MA 02108*

DEVAL L. PATRICK
Governor

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
Lieutenant Governor

JUDYANN BIGBY, M.D.
Secretary

Tel.: 617-573-1600
Fax: 617-573-1890
www.mass.gov/eohhs

**Health Care Quality and Cost Council
Minutes**

December 20, 2006
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
21st Floor, One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

Attendees: Timothy Murphy (Chair), Katherine London, Kevin Beagan, Elizabeth Capstick, Christopher J. DeLorey, Kenneth A. LaBresh, Joseph Lawler, Thomas Lee, Robert Seifert, Gregory Sullivan, Jim Conway

Secretary Murphy called the meeting to order.

- I. **Approval of Minutes** – Timothy Murphy proposes the approval of the minutes from the November 15, 2006 meeting. Gregory Sullivan motions acceptance and Tom Lee seconds the motion. On a call of the yeas and nays, the minutes are approved unanimously.
- II. **Advisory Committee meeting** – Timothy Murphy summarizes the first meeting of the Advisory Committee that took place on December 14, 2006. All agreed that it was an informative, productive introductory meeting. There was discussion about the appropriate mechanisms for feedback from the Advisory Committee on Council priorities and comments. EOHHS General Counsel Kris Apgar was consulted about the validity of email communications outside of public meetings. It was determined that subcommittees should be transparent in their communications and take extra precautions to ensure that meetings are held according to the Open Meeting Law.
- III. **Budget Proposals** – The fiscal year 2007 and 2008 budget proposals are presented for discussion and vote. Timothy Murphy detailed the budget proposal for each year, outlining costs for the website and other office expenditures, including personnel. There is question and discussion about the costs for data aggregation and analysis, as well as resources to collect data and consult on cost, quality and communications.

There is a call to vote on a 2007 budget proposal, and it is expressed that it is important to forward a preliminary proposal to Secretary Kirwan as soon as possible. It is moved that the Council request an amount of approximately \$720,000 for fiscal year 2007, and approved unanimously. It is then moved that the Council vote on a preliminary figure of \$1.6-\$2.0M for fiscal year 2008. This motion is approved unanimously.

IV. **Ethics Presentation** – Peter Sturges, Executive Director of the State Ethics Commission, summarizes the ethics law and the responsibilities of Council members as Special State Employees.

V. **Subcommittee Reports**

- a. Cost – Report of the Cost Subcommittee is that although action items are not defined at this time, the subcommittee has direction. Performance goals in cost containment have been discussed, as well as an RFI to look at the major expenditure areas in health care. It is articulated that more conversations with stakeholders are needed.
- b. Quality – The Quality subcommittee is focused on cataloguing existing strategies and measures. They are reviewing data collected in the Commonwealth uniformly and data collected nationally that could be brought to Massachusetts. The focus is on choosing goals where improvement is possible, and bringing rationalization to various quality measures.
- c. Communications – the Communications Subcommittee has drafted an RFP on marketing for the various measures and means of communicating price and quality data with consumers and providers.

It is requested by the Chair that each subcommittee have 10 action items for the next full Council meeting.

VI. **Executive Director** – the Executive Director position was posted on the Commonwealth's website, Boston.com and Monster.com on this day (Dec 20th). The Governance Subcommittee should have a complete update for the Council at the next meeting.

VII. **Motion to Adjourn** – is made. Meeting is adjourned.